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World Knowledge

The emphasis at the University of South Carolina, or at other institutions, on international affairs could not possibly be overdone.

The people of the United States in general are a long way from the desired goal of even a reasonable minimum of knowledge of world affairs.

The International Relations Club at the University has functioned enlighteningly for students for many years and today perhaps is more active and inquisitive than ever before. This week's conference on the affairs of Southeast Asia, sponsored by the club and drawing students from several states, is an example of the activity in this field at the University.

A group of distinguished authorities from the State Department, the Department of Defense and other Washington sources will address the conference, with special attention to the operations of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

This conference comes after a series of addresses at the University by Robert Amory, Jr., deputy director for intelligence of the Central Intelligence Agency. Mr. Amory's series fell also into the category of international problems and it was sponsored by the University's Department of International Studies.

The very fact that the University has a department of this name and of the purposes its name suggests is additional evidence of the realization there of the importance of world knowledge. Dr. Richard L. Walker, who is head of the department, is widely recognized as an authority and has been called upon several times to lecture and confer in the Far East.

The conference on Southeast Asia, beginning today, has been arranged by the International Club and its faculty adviser, Dr. John B. McConaughy, professor of political science.

While Columbia goes about its day-by-day business, inside the halls of the University the monumental problems of nations among nations are properly being studied.